

November 8, 1938

Dearest Garden Twins:

It was, as always, nicer even than all other times to be with you and Robert and Dumbarton and truly, in spite of rain and old age on my part, I left with rather a happy feeling that a good deal had been accomplished.

You and I both know that one of the things which has been very much on our minds and hearts is the composition of the Gardeners' memorial to dear Gray and as this really seems to be taking shape, both to your liking and to Bryce's, it seems a real step in advance. The inscription as we spoke of it runs as shown on the accompanying little slip. It is practically as you suggested it with the possible exception of the little Milton quotation, and it was rather touching to have Bryce suggest the addition of a line of poetry. Bryce has raised the question as to whether Gray should be named as "superintendent of Dumbarton Oaks" or "superintendent of these grounds" as he made the point that the position of the memorial might possibly not be within the enclave of Dumbarton after the division is made. Individually I should prefer to keep the second line as it is shown, as it would seem to me altogether likely that the park will in some way recognize the neighbourhood of Dumbarton Oaks.

Already messages have been sent regarding the rose standards for Dumbarton and within a few days I hope to go to Casa Dorinda and to see the Blaksley and its enthusiastic workers.

There is just one thing that you will perhaps feel like rapping my fingers for saying and that is that I realize how costly a luxury I am for Dumbarton, but the need for saving strength in order in order to have my few poor wits about me seems to me to require over comfortable or luxurious traveling. I also regret to say that much as I detest being in a hotel instead of with you at Dumbarton, it does mean that more can be accomplished with less distraction.

Bryce and I really got in some good work together and perhaps the very downpours kept your nose and mine inexorably and accomplishingly on the grindstone.

Max is in good form. The burden on his shoulders is heavy and complex but what is truly heartening him is that he feels the ground more solidly under his feet and some possibility of accomplishing what he has wanted than it seemed likely a few months ago. As soon as our eastern plans are definitely made you will of course be told

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and it still seems likely that I shall get to Dumbarton for Saturday and Sunday and part of Monday, the 19th, 20th and 21st of this month.

Yours ever with more than ever fond love

Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss
Dumbarton Oaks
Washington, D.C.